

1 LAW ENFORCEMENT CODE OF ETHICS

Departmental Order #: 06-04 (Originally issued under Department Order # 37-03)

A. POLICY STATEMENT

1. This section reaffirms the commitment of the Halifax Regional Police to unbiased policing. Section 1 sets the standard for the Code of Ethics expected of all police officers within HRP. Subsection 1.1 reaffirms the philosophy of the Halifax Regional Police to providing each citizen of the public with whom we have contact dignified treatment and Subsection 1.2 clarifies the circumstances in which officers can consider race/ethnicity when making law enforcement decisions and to enforce procedures that serve to assure the public that HRP is providing service and enforcing laws in an equitable manner.

2. Any sworn member requiring access to the *Nova Scotia Police Act* and *Police Act Regulations* will access them at the Nova Scotia Government website.

B. CODE OF ETHICS

1. The HRP-accepted Code of Ethics states the following:

AS A LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER, my fundamental duty is to serve mankind; to safeguard lives and property; to protect the innocent against deception, the weak against oppression or intimidation, and the peaceful against violence or disorder; and to respect the constitutional rights of all to liberty, equality and justice.

I WILL KEEP MY PRIVATE life unsullied as an example to all and will behave in a manner that does not bring discredit to my agency. I will maintain courageous calm in the face of danger, scorn, or ridicule; develop self-restraint; and be constantly mindful of the welfare of others. Honest in thought and deed in both my personal and official life, I will be exemplary in obeying the laws of the land and the regulations of my department. Whatever I see or hear of a confidential nature or that is confided to me in my official capacity will be kept ever secret unless revelation is necessary in the performance of my duty.

I WILL never act officiously or permit personal feelings, prejudices, animosities or friendships to influence my decisions. With no compromise for crime and with relentless prosecution of criminals, I will enforce the law courteously and appropriately without fear or favour, malice or ill will, never employing unnecessary force or violence and never accepting gratuities.

I RECOGNIZE the badge of my office as a symbol of public faith and I accept it as a public trust to be held so long as I am true to the ethics of the police service.

I KNOW that I alone am responsible for my own standard of professional performance and will take every reasonable opportunity to enhance and improve my level of knowledge and competence.

I WILL constantly strive to achieve these objectives and ideals, dedicating myself to my chosen profession...law enforcement.

2. All Halifax Regional Police officers shall comply with the Code of Ethics at all times whether on duty or off duty. Officers deemed to be in contravention of the Code of Ethics will be subject to disciplinary action.

C. STANDARD OF CONDUCT

1. The Code of Conduct and Discipline by which all HRP sworn members must abide is mandated by Part 2 of the *Nova Scotia Police Act Regulations*.